

Book of Mormon: Witchcraft and Joseph Smith

As I was studying the Book of Mormon (hereafter BoM) I came to a quote given directly by Jesus Christ pertaining to events to transpire in our day. It grabbed my attention and intrigued me.

14) Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles (possessors of the BoM in this case!?) except they repent; for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots;

15) And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strongholds;

16) And **I will cut off witchcrafts** out of thy land, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers;

17) Thy graven images I will also cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee, and thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands;

18) And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities.

19) And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and **priestcrafts**, and whoredoms, shall be done away. -3 Nephi 21

Coincidentally (Hmmm...) as my wife and I were pursuing our study of Ezekiel we read this about the abominations practiced in ancient Jerusalem. He showed the secret ceremonies the leaders practiced in their temple and then:

13) He said also unto me, Turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see **greater** abominations that they do.

14) Then he brought me to the door of the gate of the LORD's house which was toward the north; and, behold, there **sat women weeping for Tammuz** (Ashteroth? or in our day: "heavenly mother"!?) -Ezekiel 8

Peruse this post if you want to see what happened to Joseph Smith and the churches he brought forth: all in conflict with the BoM; as a result of his refusal to obey the commandments of the Lord.

Here are the commandments:

2 Remember, remember, that it is not the work of God that is frustrated, but the work of men: for although a man may have many revelations, and have power to do many mighty works, yet, if he boasts in his own strength, and sets at nought the counsels of God, and follows after the dictates of his own will, and carnal desires, he **must** fall and incur the vengeance of a just God upon him.

3 Behold, you have been in-trusted with these things, but how strict were your commandments; and remember, also, the promises which were made to you, if you did not transgress them; and behold, how oft you have transgressed the commandments and the laws of God, and have gone on in the persuasions of men: for behold, you should not have

feared man more than God, although men set at naught the counsels of God, and despise his words, yet you should have been faithful and he would have extended his arm, and supported you against all the fiery darts of the adversary; and he would have been with you in every time of trouble.

4 Behold thou art Joseph, and thou wast chosen to do the work of the Lord, but **because of transgression, if thou art not aware thou wilt fall**, but remember God is merciful:

Therefore, repent of that which thou hast done, and he will only cause thee to be afflicted for a season, and thou art still chosen, and wilt again be called to the work; and except thou do this, thou shalt be delivered up (to satan and his tools ... witchcraft and masonry?!) and become as other men (carnal sensual, and DEVILISH ?!), and have no more gift.

5 And when thou deliveredst up that which God had given thee sight and power to translate, thou deliveredst up that which was sacred, into the hands of a wicked man, who has set at naught the counsels of God, and has broken the most sacred promises, which were made before God, and has depended upon his own judgment, and boasted in his own wisdom, and this is the reason that thou hast lost thy privileges for a season, for thou hast suffered the counsel of thy director to be trampled upon from the beginning. - Book of Commandments, Chapter 2

I then felt led to look into "Witchcraft" a little more, and lo and behold I found some VERY INTERESTING scholarly research on the antics of Joseph Smith, and his using witchcraft (after he fell).

Here is a partial transcript of a documentary referenced below:

"When Mormon prophet Joseph Smith was killed at the Carthage Jail in 1844, **a Jupiter Talisman was found in his pocket**. Joseph was known in his time for magical practices and superstitious beliefs. The talisman was believed to give special powers and protection to the wearer, to have power and riches. It also had power over others that they would offer their love to the wearer of it."

References below:

****Reed Durham speech(director of University of Utah Institute of Religion) (Reed Durham, Director UofU LDS Institute of Religion, as quoted in "Mormon Miscellaneous," published by David C. Martin, vol. 1, no. 1, October 1975, pp.14-15) ****"This piece was in Joseph Smith's pocket when he was martyred at Carthage Jail."

(Mormon scholar LaMar C. Berrett, "The Wilford C. Wood Collection," 1972, vol. 1, p.173)

****"**Emma Smith Bidamon the prophet's widow was my foster mother. She prized this piece very highly on account of its being one of the prophet's intimate possessions.**"(Charles E. Bidamon Affidavit. Wood Coll. #7-J-b-21) (see https://youtu.be/_rFGedbOSZA for the documentary) There are many other documentaries also on this subject.

4)And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. -Revelation 18

Mormon 1:19

And it came to pass that there were sorceries, and witchcrafts, and magics; and **the power**

of the evil one was wrought upon all the face of the land, even unto the fulfilling of all the words of Abinadi, and also Samuel the Lamanite.

Mormon 2:10

And it came to pass that the Nephites began to repent of their iniquity, and began to cry even as had been prophesied by Samuel the prophet; for behold no man could keep that which was his own, for the thieves, and the robbers, and the murderers, and the magic art, and the witchcraft which was in the land.

Seems that Mormon equates "witchcraft" as a subset of evil.

The Book of Mormon is the word of Jesus Christ. The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-day Saints is NOT a/the true church of Christ.